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imperfect and fragmentary shape. With the exception of the sermon on the death of Queen Adelaide, not one of them was revised for the press by Mr. Robertson; and many of them are printed from the rough notes of different members of the congregation collated with the syllabus of the preacher, for it was not his practice to write out his sermons before they were delivered. Yet they must be classed with the most eloquent, thoughtful, and effective productions of the English pulpit in this generation. As statements of doctrine, they are clear, positive, and manly, without a single taint of narrowness and bigotry. As expositions of Scripture, they are characterized by breadth of view and independence of thought. As appeals to the heart and the conscience, they are marked by earnestness and sincerity of purpose, and by a rich and glowing eloquence.

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5. — *Life and Times of Joseph Warren.* By RICHARD FROTHINGHAM.  
Boston: Little, Brown, & Co. 1865. 8vo. pp. xix. and 558.

MR. FROTHINGHAM has long been regarded as one of the most candid, judicious, and accurate of our historical writers; and his previous works — a History of Charlestown and a History of the Siege of Boston — are among the best productions of their class which have appeared in this country. To this well-founded reputation the elaborate work before us is likely to add much. Apart from the personal interest which it possesses as a memoir of one of the purest and most devoted of the popular leaders in our Revolutionary struggle, the period between Warren's entrance into public life and his death has been less carefully and minutely examined by our historians than the subsequent years. Yet it is in this period, and in the transactions with which Warren was intimately associated, that we are to look, not only for the causes of the war, but also for the principles, an adherence to which made it a preserving rather than a destroying Revolution. For the proper treatment of this subject Mr. Frothingham possesses many qualifications; and we have not been disappointed in the expectations formed on the first announcement of his work. It is true that he shows little imagination and little power of graphic description or vivid characterization; but he has an exhaustive familiarity with his subject, — the fruit of a patient diligence in searching out minute details and of a systematic arrangement of his materials, — and throughout he evinces a just perception of the relative importance of the events which he describes. There is, indeed, a paucity of facts in regard to Warren's private life, which even Mr. Frothingham's laborious investigations have

not been able to increase materially ; but, in other respects, he must have labored under a great embarrassment of riches. The manuscript documents of which he has made use are of the utmost importance, and their publication in full will be awaited with great interest. His narrative is clear, exact, and minute, and is free from prejudice or unworthy bias. Yet the author's strong admiration of Warren and his associates is never concealed ; and we are never left in doubt as to his opinion of the transactions narrated, or the measures passed in review. In respect to fulness and accuracy of statement, and impartiality of view, Mr. Frothingham's volume leaves nothing to be desired.

Joseph Warren was born in Roxbury in June, 1741, and was killed in the battle of Bunker Hill in June, 1775, in the full vigor of early manhood, and universally lamented as one of the principal advocates of the popular cause. He had been educated in the common schools of his native town ; had entered college at an early age, and graduated with distinction ; had taught school for a short time, and afterward studied medicine ; had acquired a lucrative practice ; had taken a warm interest in the disputes between the Colonies and the mother country ; had twice been selected to deliver the oration in commemoration of the Boston Massacre ; had been a member of the Committees of Correspondence, of Donations, and of Safety ; was President of the Provincial Congress ; had been appointed a major-general ; and when it was announced that the British troops were preparing to assault the hastily constructed intrenchments on Bunker Hill, he had hastened to the field to serve as a volunteer, prepared to find that the post of danger was still the post of honor. Thus dying at the early age of thirty-four, one of the first martyrs of the Revolution, he had crowded into a brief career a various and fruitful experience, had rendered important public services, and left a name which will be forever held in honor. The life of such a man deserves to be written with all that fulness of detail and breadth of treatment which are now possible ; and it is this that Mr. Frothingham has done. Every fact which the most patient industry could discover has been brought to light ; and everywhere Warren is the central figure on his page. His investigations, as we learn from the Preface, extend over a period of sixteen years ; and it is not probable that future students of our history will be able to add anything which has escaped notice in this long study of the subject.

But in subordination to the purely personal part of the work, as we have intimated, there is a minute and luminous account of the Revolutionary movement in the town of Boston from 1767, when Warren began to take an active part in politics, down to 1775 ; and nowhere

else has the subject been so elaborately treated. The same high praise, which we have bestowed on the biographical portion of Mr. Frothingham's labors must be awarded to this part of his volume. His account of the Boston Massacre and of the destruction of the tea, in particular, may be noticed as striking examples of minute and luminous narrative: they need only the attraction of a more animated and picturesque style to insure for them a permanent place among the best historical monographs. Every important transaction, however, is described in the same careful and judicious manner; and no one can fail to be impressed by the thoroughness with which Mr. Frothingham has treated every part of his subject.

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6.—*History of Congregationalism, from about A. D. 250 to the Present Time.* By GEORGE PUNCHARD. Second Edition. Rewritten and greatly enlarged. New York: Hurd and Houghton. 1865. 2 vols. 12mo.

THE rise of Congregationalism, as a polity recognized by that name, properly dates from about the close of the sixteenth century; and the title adopted for this book is open to the objection of being a somewhat presumptuous appropriation, in the interest of Congregationalism, of the honor which belongs to a long line of noble vindicators of truth and freedom, who knew nothing of Congregationalism as such, and who cannot fairly be claimed as the supporters of that specific polity. But the author is perhaps sufficiently justified in his use of the title, in view of the very striking identity of spirit manifested in many of the various forms of what may be called early religious dissent with that of Congregationalism.

One prominent characteristic of the chief of the so-called heresies of the first fifteen centuries was the uniform practice of making appeal steadfastly to the Bible, as the ultimate authority in all matters of church government and order. On this position they all stood firm, however great their diversities in other points. Whether known by the name of Novatians, Donatists, Arians, Waldenses, Wickliffites, Separatists, Nonconformists, or Independents, these sects were one in the adoption of this principle; and owed their measure of success, in the main, to the tenacity with which they clung to it as a fundamental principle. The resemblance between Congregationalism and these dissenting sects does not, it is true, involve a complete parallelism. It is hardly close enough to justify the Congregationalist in claiming for his polity anything like an unbroken "Apostolical succession." He must be content